

PEOPLE A-F
Fortini

Paul's music plays on

Commission for DHS grad will premier Thursday

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Paul Fortini may be gone, but his song will play on.

The 2007 DHS graduate and New York University student was killed last September in an accident in New York.

In his memory, The Duxbury High School Music Department had a new musical work commissioned, a piece that will premiere on Thursday, Nov. 5 at the PAC.

DHS Music Teacher Jill Noerenberg is in-charge of the high school wind ensemble



Duxbury High School Music Teacher Jill Noerenberg leads the DHS Wind Ensemble in a music tribute to Paul Fortini, a 2007 graduate who was killed in New York City last year. The commissioned piece, by film composer Rossano Galante, will premiere at the PAC Thursday night during the Fall Band Fest.

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New work to premiere in memory of DHS student

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that will be premiering the music.

"Last year we had talked about commissioning a piece for Paul," she said. "We thought it would be ... uplifting and positive, we thought it would match his personality."

Noerenberg had a connection with West Coast-based film composer Rossano Galante, and said his style seemed to fit the type of music she was looking for.

Although a number of South Shore schools collaborated on a commissioned work in the past, this is the first time the high school has worked directly with a composer.

"It's a hunt to find someone who you trust," Noerenberg said.

DHS musicians performed a piece by Galante last year.

"I told him I'd like it to be similar to that piece in length and difficulty level," she said. Of course, there was one special request.

"We wanted a trumpeted solo because Paul was a trumpet player," Noerenberg said.

Fortini's parents, Ken and Kathy, were invited to a rehearsal a few weeks ago.



Paul Fortini was a 2007 DHS graduate. He was also a trumpet player in the band.

"It was very impressive," said Ken Fortini.

Noerenberg said the students got the music for the piece in August, and have been rehearsing since then. She said Galante did talk to the Fortinis before completing the work.

"I was really happy with it," she said. "The students love it, and they're having a great time."

Some of the students in the band were freshmen when Paul Fortini was a senior at Duxbury High School. Noerenberg said the tragedy was initially very tough on the students, but they have rallied around the music.

"It's a pretty tight group of kids," she said.

Ken Fortini said he was initially approached by Noerenberg and department head Ric Madru with the idea for the commission shortly after Paul's death.

"They really wanted to do something to honor Paul," he said.

Fortini and his wife have also set up a foundation in their son's memory. The purpose of the fund, he said, is to help the band and drama departments — Paul was heavily involved in both — with purchases they may not be able to make with their normal budgets.

The next event for the foundation is Sat. March 6, an a cappella night fundraiser. Various college groups have been invited.

And on Thursday, at the Performing Arts Center will be filled with a musical tribute to a beloved student.

"That's a really wonderful way to honor Paul," said his father.

Donations in Paul's memory can be made to the Paul Fortini Fund for Duxbury Music and Drama, c/o Rockland Trust, P.O. Box 1627, Duxbury, MA 02331.